

Office of the Superintendent of Public Works
586 South Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01002

March 12, 2011

Amherst Department of Public Works:

I am writing in response to the invitation for comments regarding traffic calming measures for Lincoln Avenue. Of the solutions that have been offered to curb both the speed and volume of traffic, only one would address both problems. Closure of the entrances to the University on Lincoln and Sunset Avenues would improve both the speeding and traffic volume issues, while the alternative proposals would not.

Speed cushion installation has already shown that this method addresses traffic speed only. Furthermore, cushions created the additional hazard of erratic driving as motorists swerved around the cushions to avoid them in so far as possible.

Speed table installation would also only address the issue of speed. Speed tables would solve the swerving problem caused by speed cushions, as they would cover the entire road. However, unlike speed cushions, speed tables would force emergency response vehicles to slow down. That is an unacceptable risk to public safety.

Therefore, it would seem that the only proposal thus far offered that would alleviate both traffic problems would be the permanent closure of the University entrances on Lincoln and Sunset Avenues.

Thank you.